

IN THE CLAIMS:

All of the pending claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 10-15 and 19-28 are set forth below. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), or (previously presented). Please AMEND claims 1, 16, 19, 21, 23 and 27 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A mail system comprising:

a source mail server managing a mail address of a mail source sending from which an e-mail is sent;

a destination mail server managing another mail address as a destination mail address of one or more destinations which receive the e-mail from said mail source through said source mail server and said destination mail server at their respective mail addresses;

a mail address manager managing the respective destination mail addresses of said destinations, said mail address manager being operative, in response to updating of the destination mail address of at least one destination, to register a new destination mail address in correlation with said the old destination mail address;

a mail storing section temporarily storing a particular e-mail, which is addressed to said old destination mail address, until said new destination mail address is registered by said mail address manager; and

a mail sending section sending the particular e-mail to said new destination mail address when said new destination mail address is registered in said mail address manager,

said mail address manager, said mail storing section and said mail sending section all of which are interconnected between said source mail server and said destination mail server.

2. (original) A mail system according to claim 1, wherein said mail address manager is a mail server which receives an e-mail from said mail source and sends the last-named e-mail to at least one destination mail address.

3. (original) A mail system according to claim 2, wherein said mail address manager is a plurality of mail servers which manage the mail addresses of two or more destinations separately.

4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) A mail system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a notifying section notifying said mail source that the mail address of at least one destination has been updated.

6. (previously presented) A mail system according to claim 5, further comprising:
a mail address rewriting section rewriting the mail address of at least one destination in an e-mail address book when said mail source is notified by said notifying section that the mail address of said at least one destination has been updated.

7. (cancelled)

8. (original) A mail system according to claim 1, wherein:
said mail address manager registers the mail addresses of said destinations and attribute information respectively unique to said destinations in correlation with each other; and
when sending an e-mail to the mail address of a particular destination, said mail source inputs said attribute information unique to said particular destination for substitution for the mail address of said particular destination so that the last-named e-mail is sent to said particular destination corresponding to said input attribute information.

9. (cancelled)

10. (previously presented) A mail system for sending an e-mail from a mail source to one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses, comprising:

a system environment storage section storing system environment information of the destinations ;

a system environment information table create section creating a system environment information table, which registers the mail addresses of destinations and said system environment information in correlation with each other, by obtaining said system environment information;

a mail processing section processing e-mail data, which is contained in the e-mail from the mail source, into such a form receivable by the destination based on said system environment information of the last-named destination which information is stored in said system environment storage section; and

a mail sending section sending the processed e-mail to the destination,
wherein said mail processing section compresses said e-mail data into such a size

receivable by the destination.

11. (previously presented) A mail system for sending an e-mail from a mail source to one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses, comprising:

a system environment storage section storing system environment information of the destinations;

a system environment information table create section creating a system environment information table, which regards the mail addresses of destinations and said system environment information in correlation with each other, by obtaining said system environment information;

a mail processing section processing e-mail data, which is contained in the e-mail from the mail source, into such a form receivable by the destination based on said system environment information of the last-named destination which information is stored in said system environment storage section; and

a mail sending section sending the processed e-mail to the destination,
wherein said mail processing section divides said e-mail data into a plurality of pieces of e-mail data, each piece of e-mail data having such a size receivable by the destination.

12. (previously presented) A mail system for sending an e-mail from a mail source to one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses, comprising:

a system environment storage section storing system environment information of the destinations;

a system environment information table create section creating a system environment information table, which registers the mail addresses of destinations and said system environment information in correlation with each other, by obtaining said system environment information;

a mail processing section processing e-mail data, which is contained in the e-mail from the mail source, into such a form receivable by the destination based on said system environment information of the last-named destination which information is stored in said system environment storage section; and

a mail sending section sending the processed e-mail to the destination,
wherein said mail processing section ciphers said e-mail data into such a form decipherable by the destination.

13. (previously presented) A mail system for sending an e-mail from a mail source to

one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses, comprising:

- a system environment storage section storing system environment information of the destinations;

- a system environment information table create section creating a system environment information table, which registers the mail addresses of destinations and said system environment information in correlation with each other, by obtaining said system environment information;

- a mail processing section processing e-mail data, which is contained in the e-mail from the mail source, into such a form receivable by the destination based on said system environment information of the last-named destination which information is stored in said system environment storage section; and

- a mail sending section sending the processed e-mail to the destination,

- wherein if said e-mail data sent from the mail source is a compressed form, said mail processing section expands such compressed data to the original data size.

14. (previously presented) A mail system for sending an e-mail from a mail source to one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses, comprising:

- a system environment storage section storing system environment information of the destinations;

- a system environment information table create section creating a system environment information table, which registers the mail addresses of destinations and said system environment information in correlation with each other, by obtaining said system environment information;

- a mail processing section processing e-mail data, which is contained in the e-mail from the mail source, into such a form receivable by the destination based on said system environment information of the last-named destination which information is stored in said system environment storage section; and

- a mail sending section sending the processed e-mail to the destination,

- wherein if said e-mail data sent from the mail source is in the form of separate pieces of data, said mail processing section combines the separate pieces of data one with another.

15. (previously presented) A mail system for sending an e-mail from a mail source to one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses, comprising:

- a system environment storage section storing system environment information of the

destinations;

a system environment information table create section creating a system environment information table, which registers the mail addresses of destinations and said system environment information in correlation with each other, by obtaining said system environment information

a mail processing section processing e-mail data, which is contained in the e-mail from the mail source, into such a form receivable by the destination based on said system environment information of the last-named destination which information is stored in said system environment storage section; and

a mail sending section sending the processed e-mail to the destination,

wherein if said e-mail data sent from the mail source is a ciphered form, said mail processing section deciphers said ciphered data.

16. (currently amended) A mail system comprising a source mail server managing a mail address of a mail source for sending an e-mail and a destination mail server managing another mail address as a destination mail address of one or more destinations which receive the e-mail from said mail source through said source mail server and said destination mail server from a mail source to one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses, said mail system further comprising:

an address list for mailing list system in which a plurality of destination mail addresses the particular e-mail is sent in one lump are registered; and

a mail address rewriting section, operative upon receipt of a notice that the destination mail address of at least one destination has been updated, rewriting the old destination mail address, which is registered in said address list for mailing list system, into a new destination mail address; and

a mail storing section temporarily storing a particular e-mail, which is addressed to said old destination mail address, until said new destination mail address is rewritten by said mail address rewriting section,

said address list, said mail address rewriting section and said mail storing section all of which are interconnected between said source mail server and said destination mail server.

17. (previously presented) A mail system according to claim 16, further comprising a registration time information recording section recording registration time information, which specifies a time when a particular destination mail address is registered, and the last-named

destination mail address in correlation with each other, said mail address rewriting section being operative, upon receipt of the notice that the destination mail address list for mailing list system has been updated, to consult with said registration time information of said new destination mail address and rewrites said old destination mail address into said new destination mail address in accordance with said registration time information.

18. (original) A mail system according to claim 16, further comprising a mail address rewrite instructing section instructing an e-mail address rewrite process, said mail address rewriting section being responsive to the instruction of said mail address rewrite instructing section to perform an e-mail address rewrite process.

19. (currently amended) An apparatus, which is interconnected between a source mail server and a destination mail server,

said source mail server managing a mail address of a mail source sending an e-mail,
said destination mail server managing another mail address as a destination mail
address of one or more destinations which receive the e-mail from said mail source through said
source mail server and said destination mail server,

said apparatus for sending managing the e-mail, ~~which is received from a mail source, to~~
~~one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses,~~ comprising:

a mail address manager managing the respective destination ~~mail addresses of the~~
~~destinations,~~ said mail address manager being operative, in response to updating of the
destination mail address of at least one destination, to register a new destination mail address in
correlation with ~~said~~ the old destination mail address;

a mail storing section temporarily storing a particular e-mail, which is addressed to said
old destination mail address, until said new destination mail address is registered by said mail
address manager; and

a mail sending section, responsive to receipt of an e-mail addressed to said old
destination mail address, sending the last-named e-mail to said new mail address.

20. (previously presented) An apparatus for sending an e-mail, which is received
from a mail source, to one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses, comprising:

a system environment storage section storing system environment information of the
destinations;

a system environment information table create section creating a system environment

information table, which registers the mail addresses of destinations and said system environment information in correlation with each other, by obtaining said system environment information; and

a mail processing section processing e-mail data, which is contained in the e-mail from the mail source, into such a form receivable by the destination based on said system environment information of the last-named destination which information is stored in said system environment storage section.

21. (currently amended) A method of sending an e-mail from a mail source to one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses through a source mail server, which manages a mail address of the mail source, and a destination mail server, which manages another mail address as a destination mail address of the destinations, comprising:

registering, by a mail address manager interconnected between said source mail server and said destination mail server, when the destination mail address of a particular destination has been updated, ~~said~~the old destination mail address of the particular destination and a new destination mail address in correlation with each other;

temporarily storing a particular e-mail, by a mail storing section interconnected between said source mail server and said destination mail server, which is addressed to said old destination mail address, until said new destination mail address is registered by said mail address manager; and

sending an e-mail, by a mail sending section interconnected between said source mail server and said destination mail server, which is addressed to said old destination mail address, to said new destination mail address if the last-named e-mail is addressed to said old destination mail address.

22. (previously presented) A method of sending e-mail from a mail source to one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses, comprising:

retaining system environment information of the destinations;

creating a system environment information table, which is registering the mail addresses of destinations and said system environment information in correlation with each other, by obtaining said system environment information;

processing e-mail data, which is contained in an e-mail sent out from the mail source, into such a form receivable by the individual destination based on said system environment information; and

sending the e-mail having the processed e-mail data to the individual destination.

23. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium in which a mail system program is recorded, said mail system program being adapted to render a computer, which is interconnected between a source mail server managing a mail address of a mail source sending an e-mail and a destination mail server managing another mail address as a destination mail address of one or more destinations receiving the e-mail from said mail source through said source mail server and said destination mail server, to function as the following:

a mail address manager ~~for managing the destination~~ mail addresses ~~of destinations and~~ registering, when the destination mail address of a particular destination has been updated, ~~said the old destination~~ mail address of the particular destination and a new destination mail address in correlation with each other;

a mail storing section temporarily storing a particular e-mail, which is addressed to said old destination mail address, until said new destination mail address is registered by said mail address manager; and

a mail sending section for sending an e-mail, which is addressed to said old destination mail address, to said particular destination at said new destination mail address.

24. (previously presented) A computer-readable recording medium according to claim 27, wherein said mail system program renders the computer to function further as the following:

a registration time information recording section which records registration time information, which specifies a time when a mail address of a destination has been entered in a mail address list for mailing list system, and the last-named mail address in correlation with each other; and

a mail address rewriting section which consults with said registration time information upon receipt of a notice that the mail address of said particular destination has been updated, and rewriting the last-named mail address in said mail address list for mailing list system in accordance with said registration time information.

25. (previously presented) A computer-readable recording medium according to claim 27, wherein said mail system program renders the computer to function further as the following:

a mail address rewriting section which rewrites the mail address of said particular

destination in said mail address; and

a mail address rewrite instructing section which gives an instruction to said mail address rewriting section to rewrite said mail address list for mailing list system in accordance with said instruction of said mail rewrite instructing section.

26. (previously presented) A computer-readable recording medium in which a mail system program is recorded, said mail system program being adapted to render a computer to function as the following:

a system environment information table create section creating a system environment information table, which is registering the mail addresses of destinations and system environment information of the destinations in correlation with each other, by obtaining said system environment information;

a mail processing section which processes e-mail data, which is contained in an e-mail sent out from a mail source and addressed to a particular destination at a mail address thereof, into such a form receivable by said particular destination based on a system environment of said particular destination; and

a mail sending section which sends the last-named e-mail, addressed to said particular destination and having the processed e-mail data, to said particular destination.

27. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium in which a mail system program is recorded, said mail system program being adapted to render a computer, which is interconnected between a source mail server managing a mail address of a mail source sending an e-mail and a destination mail server managing another mail address as a destination mail address of one or more destinations receiving the e-mail from said mail source through said source mail server and said destination mail server, to function as the following:

a mail address list for mailing list system in which a plurality of destination mail addresses the particular e-mail is sent in one lump are registered; and

a mail address rewriting section which rewrites, upon receipt of a notice that ~~an~~the destination mail address of a particular destination registered in said mail address list for mailing list system has been updated, the ~~last-named~~old destination mail address of said particular destination into a new destination mail address; and

a mail storing section temporarily storing a particular e-mail, which is addressed to said old destination mail address, until said new destination mail address is rewritten by said mail address rewriting section.

28. (previously presented) A mail system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a notifying section notifying said mail source of the new mail address of the destination.